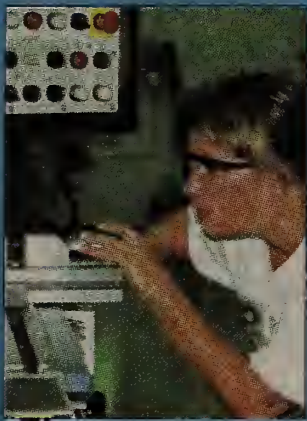


SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

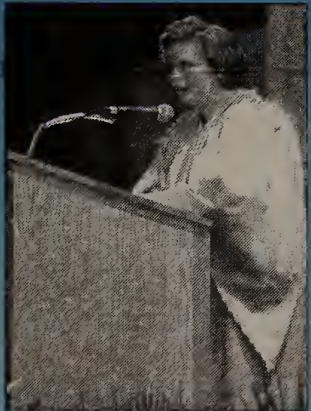
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Corporate greed destroys society

Convocation validates student accomplishments, graduates say

By Wayne Collins

Amidst a sea of black robes and bright smiling faces, three accounting students stand on the floor of the Kenneth E. Hunter arena laughing and talking.

Many pace about in shiny shoes like horses at the starting gate while the only red-robed person in the room demonstrates the correct procedure to slip past this final hurdle to the academic finish line.

Jenn Fletcher, Della Ferguson and Lianne Dougherty have given several years of their lives to complete the business administration-accounting program at Conestoga College and are nervous and excited about the future.

They feel that the convocation ceremony, held on June 22 at 7:30 p.m., is more than a necessary part of the whole educational process.

"It's a good feeling," said Fletcher.

She said that wearing the dark gown and going through the whole ceremonial procedure validates her college training. To her, and the others, receiving her diploma is one thing; the convocation evening, she said, is an important part of the whole process because friends and family get to share in her joy at her accomplishments.

As for the education part,



Dean of applied arts Joe Martin (left) and Conestoga College president John Tibbits chat during convocation ceremonies.

(Photo by Anna Sajfert)

Dougherty said the program was intense and she learned a lot.

"I (just got) a job at the Toronto Dominion bank in Guelph," said Dougherty, adding that her training has prepared her well for the position.

She said it is only an entry-level position but she feels prepared to go anywhere in her chosen field.

Ferguson, meanwhile, joked that she had probably learned too much in the program.

"It's pretty intense at times," she said, adding it felt good to come to this point after so much work.

Robert Irwin's speech at the college's convocation ceremony echoed many of Fletcher's, Ferguson's and Dougherty's sentiments and validated the same feelings for the majority of students, faculty and audience members present.

Irwin, director of Kitchener offices for Human Resources Development Canada, spoke for about 20 minutes in a speech that was both eloquent and sagely pertinent in his advice to the students.

"You are well-prepared," said

Irwin, who went on to talk about how the world is changing, especially in information technology and "soft skills."

Soft skills, he said, include "teamwork, decision-making, influencing and interpersonal skills."

"These soft skills will help you cope," Irwin said, "and (give you) the ability to deal with change. You will face a lifetime of rapid change."

Ultimately, he said, students must measure success on their own terms. Some will mark it by their earnings, the car they will drive or the house they'll buy.

"But measure (success) in your own minds," he said. "Take pleasure at what you are achieving and have fun at it."

Irwin also suggested ways of assuring success, such as having a business plan "for life and career."

"In the end, you are the person in charge of your life and career," he said, adding that students must be mainly responsible for their own results.

The key, he said, is to be flexible.

Irwin said that "today is a gift" but students must have a plan in mind and the future will take care of itself.

He wished students every success, "on your terms" and before concluding added, "don't be afraid to dream."

Outstanding graduates receive awards

By Carly Benjamin

Three outstanding graduates of Conestoga College received Alumni of Distinction Awards at the college's 31st convocation ceremonies on June 22 and 23.

They were: Bernard Melloul, a 1972 civil engineering technology graduate; Jim Robinson, a 1987 graphic design graduate; and Louise DeCorso, a 1977 early childhood education graduate.

The award represents the ability to combine career success with work that shows commitment to community development.

Melloul, and his partner David Blamey, a civil engineering graduate, run Melloul-Blamey Inc., a construction company based in Waterloo.

The firm specializes in institutional construction, arena and industrial designing and building projects.

"Conestoga gave me the foundation I needed to dive head first into this career," Melloul said. "It is an honour to receive such an award after all these years."

In the past year, Melloul-Blamey Inc., earned more than \$30 million in business.

Melloul is chair of Conestoga's construction engineering technology program advisory committee, which provides assistance to the program on matters of appropriate career skills, industry trends and developments, equipment and technology advances, curriculum review and program-related student awards.

"I nominated someone else when contacted about the award," he said. "I guess all the exposure I get around the college helped to boost me into the winning position."

Graphic design graduate Robinson was also surprised when he learned he was to receive such

an award.

"It's nice to get that type of recognition," he said. "I value my education at Conestoga and have fond memories of the time I spent there."

Robinson is the founder of Ignition Marketing Communications, a Cambridge firm offering full-service design and advertising solutions for business.

He said Conestoga gave him the tools he needed to succeed in the workforce and that is the reason he continues to be a part of the school.

Robinson is a member of the college's graphic design program advisory committee and a participant in co-operative education activities operated by the Waterloo Region district school board.

DeCorso said it was an honour to receive an award from a college that provided her with the opportunity to start a career that she loves.

"Conestoga provided me with the base that I needed to work my way up the work-world ladder and succeed," she said.

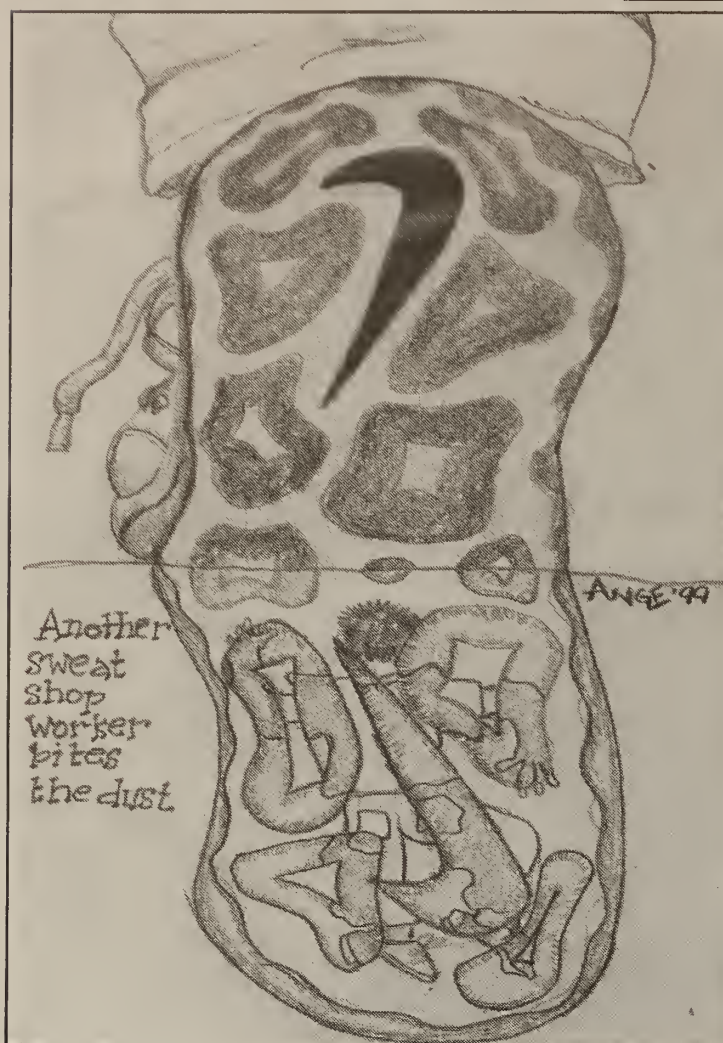
DeCorso began her career at New Dundee Co-operative preschool and later moved on to the University of Waterloo's child-care service.

Continuing to rise in her field, DeCorso said, she applied the knowledge she obtained at Conestoga and became co-founder of what today is Owl Child Care Services, based in Kitchener.

She is Owl's executive director, acting as a liaison between the board of directors and the community representatives.

DeCorso continues her involvement with the college by acting as co-chair of Conestoga's child studies program advisory committee.

"Conestoga allows its students to work within the community," she said. "And to stay connected with people in the community."



Money and power a bad combination

I'm so afraid that power and money are eventually going to tear the world apart. It makes me sick to think about the consequences 'if this happens.

In multi-million dollar companies it happens every day. No, it's not just in the movies that you see greed, corruption and betrayal destroy a person's life and their family's life. These things crush a person's pride and weaken the souls of average families in any city, any country, every day.

My father recently lost his job at a major company. My sadness and anger stems from the maltreatment of my father in the last few years of his 16-year career with a European-born company and the unprecedented termination of his presidential title. The reason



Andrea Jesson

behind his termination is a mystery. But we do know that he has fallen victim to cruelty and the ways of politics inside the corporate world. It takes an extensive period of time to overcome the fear of the unknown and what the future holds for all involved. Their building block to survival is torn down. But, through the grieving period of what feels like a death when a family member is faced with the immorality of the corporate world, we deal with degradation and shame. Why, when these families have done nothing wrong, nothing illegal, nothing threatening? Their only mistake was to bring those corporate tyrants success and money.

And this is the payback families get after each member has supported and loved that person through dedicated years of hard work. After grieving comes bitterness and a feeling of tremendous anger towards the world.

The bigwigs that rule the corporate world have absolutely no

compassion for humankind. They are subhumans who marvel over money and power, and show only artificial concern for the families of their moneymakers.

Together, money and power bring out the worst in the innocent. It is a factor, I believe, that has the potential to bring the psyche of all people down to the worst possible level.

Most of all, I'm sick of the unfair and unlawful treatment of hardworking, whole-hearted Canadians who deserve nothing but the utmost respect from the money-mongers throughout North America.

But nothing will ever change as long as money and power continue to corrupt the minds of people.

My father is the most courageous man I know, and although these types of oppressive slave drivers have spoiled his pride, and he feels like a disappointment to his family, he will always be the dad and husband of whom we are proud.

Canadian inmates paid for lack of discipline

Sit in jail. Do nothing. Act like a jerk. Get paid. Is there anything wrong here?

According to new regulations introduced by the federal government, prisoners suspended from work programs for misconduct will continue to receive daily pay.

Federal officials say that pay suspension is applied arbitrarily at prisons and that it should not be used as a disciplinary measure.

I smell a contradiction, and it reeks like a rotting carcass. Isn't jail supposed to be based on the principle of discipline? Who ever gets paid for being punished?

Ken Veley, a vice-president of the Union of Solicitor-General Employees, said guards do not resent prisoner's pay, but would be infuriated if inmates received full pay during suspensions.

In a June 15 article, he told The Globe and Mail, "I would have a real problem with that. If I get suspended from work, I don't get paid...They have eliminated so many ways to discipline inmates



Brian Gall

that eventually they are going to get to the point where the only discipline will be a note sent home to your mom."

Prisoners should be grateful to be paid at all. They earn up to \$6.90 a day, depending on their program and attitude.

All prisoners, including those who refuse to participate in any programs, earn at least \$1 a day.

Sorry, did I say earn?

I have no problem with incarcerated people being paid for doing a job. They should be. But rewarding someone for doing nothing is ridiculous.

A senior project manager at the Correctional Service of Canada in Ottawa disagrees.

"We've realized over the years that one of the ways to incite an inmate into socially acceptable behaviour is to get them used to managing their own finances - it's incentive for them to get back into somewhat of a normal and legal economy," said Vladimir Kozicki.

If behaving badly and sitting around doing nothing, while getting paid at the same time, is socially acceptable, now I know what to become if my journalism career falls through.

An arch-criminal, with a taste for temper tantrums.

International Who's Who picks century's 100 most influential

What do Louis Armstrong, Mikhail Gorbachev, Richard Nixon and Mother Teresa all have in common?

If you guessed "they all played a mean jazz trumpet" you're close, but three out of four doesn't count. Everyone knows Nixon played the piano.

No, the correct answer is they were all recently named in the *International Who's Who* list of the 100 most influential people of the century.

As we inch closer to the year 2000, we're being deluged with lists and the people from *Who's Who* have come up with a controversial roster of heroes and villains. Being a student of the 20th century (except for all the pre-1975 stuff), I'd like to now offer my own personal critique.

Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner are two of the famous authors on the list, but it's the



John Oberholtzer

inclusion of Gabriel Garcia Marquez that baffles me. After all, this is a guy who wrote a book called *Love in the Time of Cholera*. What kind of a story is that? Why not Heavy Petting During the Black Plague? Or Romance Among the Locusts?

Continuing in the arts, the Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman was chosen for his long career of making movies where his characters look forlornly at the falling snow for weeks on end and generally mope around. Enough with the existential claptrap. If they had to take someone from Sweden, why not those Abba people?

As mentioned earlier, Richard Nixon was on the list, but wasn't Ronald Reagan more influential? While Nixon had to resign for his crimes, Reagan just claimed he didn't remember anything and spent many hours peacefully snoozing through boring old cabinet meetings. Reagan was the original slacker.

Also, there was a tendency to include many people just because they had three names (Martin Luther King and George Bernard

Shaw), while the more deserving single name crowd was only represented by Pele. What about Madonna and Gumby?

The list does have many deserving choices though. In the field of acting, Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor certainly rate as outstanding thespians, as opposed to those Method slobbs, Brando and DeNiro.

Certainly Queen Elizabeth's place among the legends of the century is unquestioned. Being able to keep such a sour look on her face for over 30 years is a singular achievement.

One disappointing element was the exclusion of the president of Conestoga College, John Tibbits. I guess that 95 per cent job placement rate we keep hearing about just wasn't good enough for the editors of *Who's Who*. Maybe when the campus groundhogs finally nail down a few marketing positions, this oversight will be rectified.

The other obvious misstep was the glaring omission of whoever the guy was who came up with the concept of irony. I don't know where I'd be without him.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

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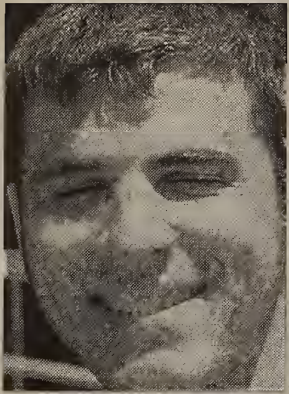
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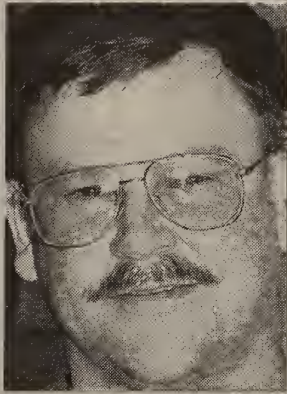
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Jason Baumgartner, woodworking and technology student



Roger Wood, robotics and automation student



Matt Gunzel, robotics and automation student



Andrew Dean, robotics and automation student



Tara Hall, early childhood education student



Alexis Mazurka, robotics and automation student

Are changes to the Sanctuary welcome?

Story & Photos
By Michelle Lehmann

These days change is inevitable, even for the Sanctuary at Conestoga College.

Recently, the Doon Student Association decided to use a five-year surplus of money to renovate the student lounge, and was provided with space to expand it. Construction is set to begin July 1.

The DSA decided to make some major changes that would affect a number of students. The blueprints include designs for a used bookstore, a separate games room, restaurant-style booths, a special events bar and a new television lounge.

Eight out of 10 students randomly surveyed at the Doon Campus of Conestoga College on June 22 said that the changes for the Sanctuary are a great idea.

But Steve Basiliere, a woodworking and technology student, wasn't one of them.

"The DSA should have asked for the students' input instead of deciding for us," he said. "The

woodworking centre has virtually no facilities compared to this side of campus."

Classmate Jason Baumgartner agreed.

"The DSA should have asked students for suggestions on ways to spend the money," he said. He said the surplus money could have been used for students on other parts of the campus.

Roger Wood, a robotics and automation student, said the changes would be good for everyone.

"The expansion will allow the DSA to have nooners for some students, yet others can still watch TV," he said. Wood added that the bookstore is a really good idea because students will be able to save a little money on the expensive textbooks everyone needs.

Cindy Cha, a microcomputer

CAMPUS QUESTION

administration student, agreed.

"The used bookstore will be awesome," said Cha. "It'll be cheaper to buy books and we can get money back by selling old books."

Nicole Sweica, a paramedic student, said the plans for the Sanctuary sound great.

"It's definitely a good place to have the facilities because they'll be easily accessible to the people,"

she said. Sweica also said the addition will offer a diverse range of activities that can please a number of students.

Matt Gunzel, a robotics and automation student, said the changes should have happened a long time ago.

"It'll be excellent to finally have a separate TV area because we always get denied access to it when a function is going on," said Gunzel.

Andrew Dean, a robotics and automation student, said students need a place to go when events are happening and they are unable to just go into the Sanctuary.

"It's been disappointing when you have a couple of hours to kill and you can't sit in the lounge and watch TV because then you have nothing to do," he said. "With the separate TV lounge,

that won't happen anymore."

Tara Hall, a first-semester early childhood education student starting in September, said that the addition should bring about some really good changes.

"The school may be new to me, but I think the changes will bring students together by offering a variety of social activities," she said.

Sean MacDonald, a broadcasting graduate from 1998, said the changes sound great, but he is afraid more people will just sit and watch television or play video games by themselves instead of participating in activities run by the DSA.

"Nooners are something different. They promote socializing and break up the monotony of college life," MacDonald said. "Students need to get more involved."

Alexis Mazurka, a robotics student, said the new Sanctuary will be fantastic even though she is leaving school in August.

"I can't take advantage of the new facilities, but it's good for the students who will be back at Conestoga."

"The DSA should have asked for the students' input instead of deciding for us. The woodworking centre has virtually no facilities compared to this side of campus."

Steve Basiliere,

woodworking and technology student

Drying pond no danger to ducklings

By Brad Dugard

Mary McElwain was relieved to hear that the 12 ducklings in the pond near Parking Lot 2 are in no danger from rapidly falling water levels.

On June 23, McElwain contacted physical resources to ask if anything could be done to increase the water level of the pond so the brood of days-old ducks would not die.

"I come down here every day around 10:30 a.m.," said McElwain, who works in the Dean of Technology's office. "The water has been going down so fast. Yesterday there was no island but by this morning there is."

McElwain feared that if the ducks didn't die from lack of food or water then cats or foxes might kill the babies.

"I've seen cats in the area and last year I saw a fox," she said. "There is also a lady who lets her two rottweillers run free around the pond every afternoon."

However, when the Ducks Unlimited office in Barrie was contacted for assistance they said there is no need for concern.

Mike Williams, a biologist with the organization, said as long as the mother is with the brood they will likely be fine.

"(Ducks) have been doing this for thousands of years without people to help them," he said.

If the water level in the pond gets too low, he said, the mother would simply move the brood to another pond.

"We have done studies with hen mallards and (found) they will travel over a mile to get to water," he said. "Sometimes they will even move if there is not a plentiful stock of food in their current location."

Sometimes, during the moving, the mother might lose some of the young to predators or to traffic but she would stay with the young and protect them even if only one baby was left.

"The male mallard leaves soon after the eggs are laid. From then on it is the mother who provides — and she is very loyal," he said.

If the mother were to leave the babies or be killed then Williams suggests people take a more active role in helping the young.

He said if the young are left to themselves they would likely die, so the best option is to catch them and relocate them to a pond where other ducks and ducklings live and another mother will quickly adopt the orphaned brood.

Envelope error not big deal, stresses registrar's office

By Chadwick Severn

Will the real Kevin P. Noseworthy please stand up?

The volunteer management student is one of several continuing education students who has enrolled for courses this July, but had not received his confirmation of registration as of June 24.

"I just enrolled for the class here just last week and I haven't received it yet," he said.

Normally, this would not be a problem. It could be due to a postal delay, a postal problem or perhaps a postal strike.

But this time, lady luck has dealt his registration card to someone else.

"I guess I have a double personality," said Noseworthy after hearing his student registration card is in the hands of Spoke reporter John Oberholtzer.

Oberholtzer was not the only Spoke staffer to receive tuition invoices in the mail last week with someone else's confirmation of registration.

After conducting a straw poll, it was discovered six students had received a little extra gift from the registrar's office

inside their envelopes.

"We were mailing out thousands of tuition invoices, and I think some confirmations got caught underneath," said Gwen Nicholson.

So could there be thousands of misplaced registration cards out there?

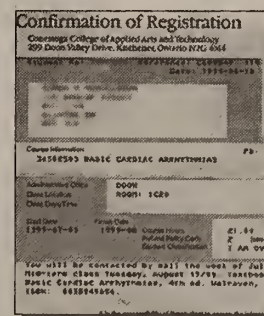
"No, it's probably not that many," said Nicholson. "We only get a couple (applications) a day for continuing education for programs that run in July or August."

Noseworthy, who will be mailed a new confirmation of registration, said that he isn't upset about the ordeal, and is pleased with his teachers and classes so far.

"Usually the school is pretty good when it comes to paperwork," he said.

If you have received a tuition invoice with someone else's confirmation of registration inside, the registrar's office would appreciate it if you could drop it off. Instead of the confirmation card, the envelopes were supposed to receive flyers on OSAP deferrals and payment instructions.

If you have enrolled in a continuing education course and have not received your confirmation of registration you can contact the registrar's office at 748-3550.



This form for the basic cardiac arrhythmias class was sent to journalism student Andrea Jesson.

They always get their book

By Adam Wilson

Three people from Clearwater, Fla. were sent to jail for failing to return library books 18 months overdue. One of them was a mother who kept the books to read to her son.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) isn't as harsh as the Clearwater Public Library System, but they do have their share of overdue books.

"Overdue books aren't a problem this time of year, but they are during the regular semesters," said Cathy Potvin, co-ordinator of information at the LRC.

A June 11 Record article reported that people from Clearwater were given eight warnings before promptly being put in jail. At the LRC, you don't get so many chances, but the penalty isn't a jail term.

"We send out two warning notices to the people as a reminder that they have overdue books," said Potvin.

Most books are returned after the first warning is sent out, she said, but there are still a few books that aren't returned right away. The people who don't return the books are kept track of on the library's computer and not allowed to sign out another book until the overdue one is returned.

If the books are lost, or returned to the LRC badly damaged, the person is made to pay for a new copy of the book.

Potvin said once the people get their two warnings, the information is sent to the college's finance department.

Microcomputer grad receives Komer award

By Lesley Turnbull

On June 23, a 23-year-old graduate of the microcomputer software program and mother of three children received the Marjorie Komer Award at Conestoga College's Waterloo campus.

After completing 12 weeks in the Focus for Change program as well as academically upgrading herself and graduating from a one-year microcomputer software program, Janice Grant was chosen for the award.

"This year's recipient has not only succeeded reaching her goal but has surpassed and excelled in shaping her life to make it a positive and meaningful journey," said Debbie Cox, instructor of the Focus for Change program, during the presentation of the award.

About 25 people attended the presentation, including some members of Komer's family.

The Marjorie Komer Award was created in 1991 by the Komer family after Marjorie passed away at the age of 61.

Komer was an instructor for Focus for Change right from the beginning of the program.

"She believed if you had a dream and a goal you can do it," said Janice Whitby, one of Komer's daughters.

Komer raised nine children before she decided to go back to school. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Waterloo in her late 40s.

She began working at Conestoga College in food and beverage services before becoming an instructor for the Focus for Change program.

demically upgrade and what work area the student is interested in.

Personal and time management is taught to the students since they are juggling children as well as

The group setting helps build confidence for the students to complete their goals.

Cox said to win the Marjorie Komer Award the student must complete the Focus for Change program, academic upgrading and one year of post-secondary education as well as remain involved in the program.

Cox said Grant has been a strong supporter of the program and has always been willing to come and recruit new students.

"She (Grant) is a woman who certainly symbolizes the Marjorie Komer Award," said Cox. "She has worked very, very hard to get to this point."

Throughout her microcomputer software program Grant helped her peers with their homework as a tutor. She was the winner of the Microsoft Award



There were plenty of smiles after Janice Grant received the Marjorie Komer Award June 23. From left to right: Bob McIvor, Janice Grant, Joseph Grant, Debbie Cox, Sami and Breaune.

(Photo by Lesley Turnbull)

"She had an impact on a lot of lives," said Whitby.

The Focus for Change program helps prepare women, who are raising children by themselves, for school and a job.

Students are assessed as to what skills they have or might need, whether or not they need to aca-

going to school full-time and then going on to a full-time job.

"What's unique about it (the program) is that it is taught in a group setting instead of one on one," said Bob McIvor, chair of preparatory studies. "Debbie Cox supports the group and the group supports each other as well."

"She (Grant) is a woman who certainly symbolizes the Marjorie Komer Award... She has worked very hard to get to this point."

Debbie Cox,
Focus for Change instructor

of Excellence.

"I feel better about myself," said Grant. "I think the Focus program and upgrading is very important."

Grant said the best part of completing the program was finding herself again.

"I became Janice again opposed to mom," said Grant.

She had advice for women who are thinking of joining the Focus program.

"It's going to seem like a long road but it is achievable," she said. "You've got to hang in there and just keep going."

Grant is now working for Lee-Technics, a computer company.

One of her daughters, Breaune, summed her mom up best by saying: "She's a good mom."

Working hard



Three of the college's part time security staff take a break from directing traffic during Conestoga's convocation ceremonies June 22. From top to bottom: Carlos Flores, Michelle Roberts and Lori Rothwell.

(Photo by Wayne Collins)

Student employment

No cure for the summertime blues

By Angela Clayfield

Ring in sales and reminding every customer of the coupon at the end of their receipt may be the bane of her existence this summer, but it's a job and it pays well.

Kitty Bounsanga, a third-year mechanical engineering (CAD) student at Conestoga College, hopes to make enough cash to pay for her tuition this year.

Not everyone is so fortunate. Statistics Canada has released the employment numbers for post-secondary students age 20-24 in Ontario for May 1999.

And though the economy in Ontario is starting to look up, the student unemployment rate is unchanged from last May where it hovered at 16.6 per cent.

According to the statistics, there were 72,200 part-time and 64,800 full-time jobs available for 27,200 students this May and yet the unemployment rate is the same as in 1998.

Lil Premeek Singh, resource centre co-ordinator at Kitchener-Waterloo Career Connections, cannot explain the provincial numbers. And though she does not have the current statistics, she says Waterloo Region's youth unemployment rate is low.

She says this is because the large companies in the area like Mutual Life and Toyota will hire students part-time in the summer to make up for vacations or any spaces that may be open.

"Employers are very aware of how valuable student employment is to students," Singh says.

Bounsanga, who is a cashier at A Gift to

Remember, a craft store in St. Jacobs, knows how valuable her job is to her education and works as often as she can.

Putting in eight hours a day five days a week seems like a good way to go, but not if you make minimum wage.

Bounsanga says there is a bonus in pay at the end of the day if sales are good.

The cashiers receive \$20 cash for every \$1,000 the store brings in starting at \$2,000. If there is no bonus then they receive \$8 an hour instead of the usual \$6.85.

"It's not bad for cashier work," she says, but she wouldn't mind making the same amount as she did last summer when she worked six days a week. "Last year I did amazing (\$5,000)."

That cash would come in handy now, especially since she is no longer eligible for OSAP because of a technicality. Bounsanga is working to pay for her tuition and her student loan.

Most students would tell you the same story. Especially university students who have a harder time getting enough funds because their tuition is so much higher. Most can't make enough, even before taxes, to cover tuition for one year (about \$10,000 plus expenses if you don't live at home). A student loan for some is their only saving grace.

Singh says typical summer jobs are available, but the pickings are slim now that it's mid-summer and high school students began looking for jobs after exams.

Governors meeting: Conestoga still No. 1

By Linda Wright

Conestoga College's board of governors discussed a variety of topics at the June 21 meeting, including enrolment statistics, teleconferencing, the Skills Canada competition and the budget.

Those in attendance were told the college received approximately 9,000 applications as of June 12. Compared with last year, the total applications across the province are down about 6 per cent, but they are up at Conestoga. Last year, Conestoga had about 8,900 applications, whereas this year the number was about 9,300.

John Tibbits, college president,

said the college only accepts a certain number of students.

Tibbits said some colleges

Conestoga College received approximately 9,300 applications as of June 12, but applications are down 6 per cent across the province.

accept everyone who applies, adding all you need "is a pulse to get in."

Overall, Conestoga College has the highest job placement and graduate satisfaction in Ontario.

Also, Conestoga won more awards than any other community college in the Skills Canada competition.

Conestoga won 10 medals in the provincials and two gold medals in the nationals. "This was the best Skills competition," said Tibbits. "Because all provinces are represented in the nationals, it makes it tougher to win."

The college had almost 20,000 students watch or participate in the competition, resulting in substantial exposure, said Tibbits.

Speaking of exposure, the board of governors decided teleconfer-

encing will only be available if a board member is stuck out of town.

The board doesn't want the new

Conestoga has the highest job placement and graduate satisfaction in Ontario. Conestoga has won more awards than any other college.

medium to become the norm. Only under certain circumstances will a member be able to use tele-

conferencing. The system should be installed by September.

David Uffelmann, vice-chair of the board, announced there were few unknowns in the budget this year. But it was difficult to come to a balance.

Seventy-five to 80 per cent of the budget goes to wages.

In 1995-96, the number of college employees decreased 17 per cent and remains lower than that period.

Conestoga has the smallest management team in the system.

Tibbits said the college has no money to spare, adding he would like to see \$2 to \$3 million in a contingency fund but lack of funding makes that impossible.

College awaits Taiwan children for cultural camp

By John Oberholtzer

Twenty-two children from Taiwan will be attending an English language cultural camp in July co-sponsored by Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier University. The children, who range in age from nine to 14, arrived on July 2 from the LMI Language School in Taiwan and were accompanied by seven parents.

"I think the parents are really interested in the kids reaching a certain degree of fluency (in English)."

Carolyn Whatley, English language teacher.

Host families in Kitchener-Waterloo have been recruited for some of the Taiwanese children, enabling them to be partnered with a child close to their own age. A number of these Canadian children will also attend the camp. The remainder of the Taiwanese guests will stay in rooms at one of Laurier's residences. Carolyn Whatley, who was hired by the college to run the classroom portion of the camp, said she plans to emphasize Canadian culture and diversity.

"I think the parents are really interested in the kids reaching a certain degree of fluency (in English)," she said, "but it will really be focused on cultural experience."

On most days, the youngsters will attend class in the morning, and then be taken on a field trip in the afternoon. Kathleen Martin, who recently graduated from WLU with a language degree, is the manager for the activities section of the camp.

Four other Laurier students have volunteered to act as guides for the various trips and events.

The first week includes visits to Conestoga's Doon campus on July 6 and Canada's Wonderland on July 9. During the second week, the youngsters will be shown the Joseph Schneider Haus on July 13 and they will attend a movie at the Silver City movie theatre in Kitchener on July 14. The week ends with a trip to Niagara Falls on July 16. Planned events for the third week include swimming, bowling and a visit to a dairy farm. A trip to see the CN Tower in Toronto is slated for July 23. A farewell lunch will be held July 26 and the children and parents will depart on July 27 and 28.

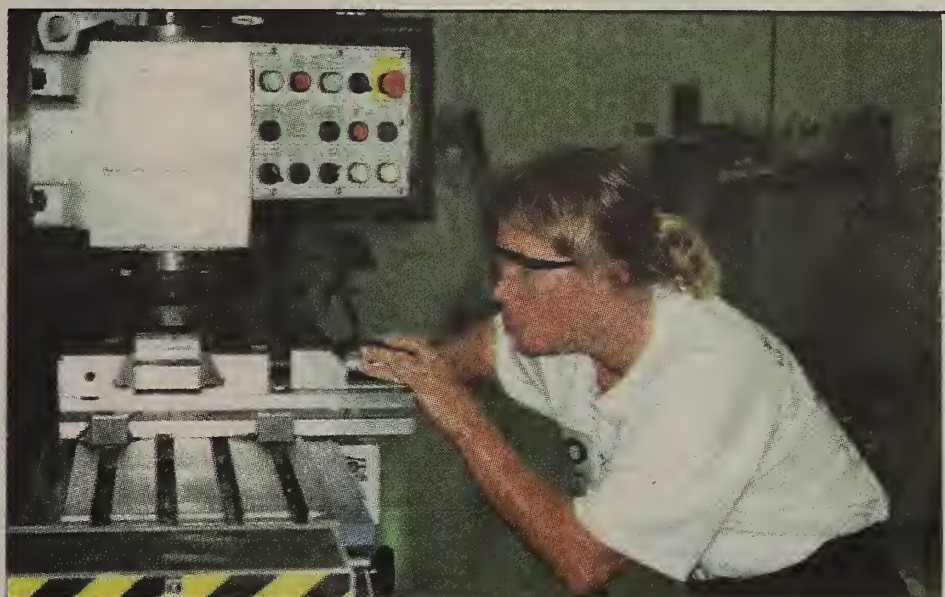
Debbie King, an international student adviser at WLU, said the camp has been in the planning stages since February, when she visited the LMI Language School in Taiwan. She hopes the

"I think a lot of people really only think about the United States when they think about North America. We want to give kids of a younger age an idea of what Canada is about."

Debbie King, international student advisor at WLU

cultural exchange will be beneficial to both Taiwanese and Canadian children.

"I think a lot of people really only think about the United States when they think about North America," King said. "We want to give kids of a younger age an idea of what Canada is about."



Irina Gorobets makes some adjustments to one of the milling machines at the Guelph campus' machine shop.

(Photo by Charles Kuepfer)

New machine shop a hit at Guelph campus, says CNC teacher

By Charles Kuepfer

The computer numerical control machine shop at Conestoga College's Guelph campus is one of the best, according to the chair of technology.

"It probably makes us the top machining college in the province," Hans Zawada said of the facility that opened last December.

The college's new machining facilities were made possible because of the efforts of Conestoga College said president John Tibbits.

"Tibbits put a hell of a lot of work in it."

He said Tibbits had to convince the provincial government to invest in skills, while also gaining the support of industry, with companies such as Linamar and ATS.

There are 30 students enrolled in the general machining program, but Zawada expects the number to double for September. The machine shop has an industrial-type setup and equipment similar to that of an industrial machine shop. Teacher Albert Potter, who had been teaching at the Doon campus until the centre at Guelph opened, likes the new facility.

"It's very, very good," said Potter. "It's a modern machine shop."

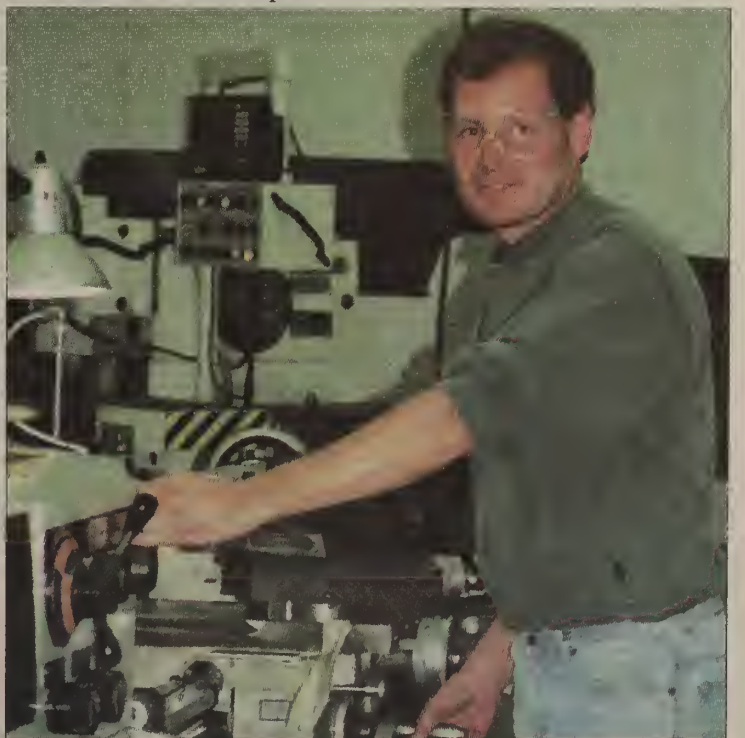
He explained that the shop has good lighting, air-conditioning and only three pieces of used equipment.

"The good working environment is a benefit to students," said Potter, who has been machining since the age of 16.

The new facilities include a workshop with a number of fully automated lathes and milling machines, also referred to as turn centres and milling centres. The fully automated machines will not be used by students until September, but were used for part of the Skills Canada competition.

Zawada said students need to learn how to do the conventional milling first, before they can "graduate" to the automated machines. He said there is also classroom training, in which students learn how to program the machines using a computer program.

The programs can then be downloaded directly to the automated machines or put on a floppy disk and inserted into the machine.



Gary Timms, a general metal machining student, operates a lathe during a class for the 44-week program. (Photo by Charles Kuepfer)

Convocation a mix of humour, dignity and advice

By Wayne Collins

Conestoga College's annual convocation ceremony on June 22 was a pleasant mix of humour, dignity and short speeches dripping sage advice to graduates of 24 of the college's programs this year.

The ceremony began at 7:30 p.m. with the procession of graduates, the college marshal, the chair of the board of governors, president John Tibbits and other members of this year's platform party.

Following the singing of O Canada by Margie Warren, the capacity crowd in the Kenneth E. Hunter auditorium was seated and Mike Thurnell, co-ordinator of the broadcasting program, introduced Sandra Hanmer, chair of the college's board of governors. Hanmer then introduced guest speaker, Robert Irwin.

Irwin spoke for 20 minutes, offering students his own insights into how the world is changing, especially in the information technology field, and ways they can guarantee their own future successes.

"You have completed this phase of your learning," Irwin said, going on to explain how the business world works outside the college doors and ways students could compete in a changing environment.

Flexibility, he said, was the key to success.

After Irwin's speech, Tibbits approached the podium and presented Irwin with an award for "creative and effective leadership to the advancement of the public service."

Sara Marie Thompson, computer programmer/analyst alumni and 1986 president of the Conestoga

College Alumni Association, spoke for five minutes and gave students the same advice as Irwin.

"Never stop learning and embrace change," she said.

Thompson then introduced Gavin Fitzpatrick, a business administration/marketing alumni representative.

Fitzpatrick, who was 1997 vice-president of the college's alumni association, lightened up the austere mood by making several jokes about a colleague "who looked a bit better educated than the last time" he saw him.

The audience seemed to appreciate this mood swing with much laughter and Fitzpatrick proceeded to speak in an easygoing manner but with the same message for the students as his predecessors.

"You're just beginning your journey," said Fitzpatrick. "(This is

just) the first step. Enjoy your trip."

At 8:15 p.m. students from individual programs were invited to the stage to receive their diplomas/certificates and be invested with the Conestoga liripipe.

The liripipe originated in the 15th century during the Renaissance of the great artists, scholars and explorers. It symbolizes recognition of an "individual sufficiently prepared to play a role in the world's work and attainment of a standard of excellence that will encourage recipients to "seek, learn and improve upon the nature of their chosen roles."

A band of red velvet and four white tassels, the liripipe was draped over the left shoulders of students to signify acceptance into the community

of Conestoga College graduates.

A large number of students in various programs made the honour roll this year.

Several business students made the president's honour list. They were: Darlene P. Renouf-Jarvis, business administration-accounting; Goran Kopic, business administration-management studies; and Maria Lacko, business administration-marketing.

Three students, Julius F. Avelar, Alexandre A. Reis and Xinman Yang of the computer programmer/analyst program, were also presented with awards for academic distinction.

After the closing remarks, the procession retired and the huge crowd followed to the exit doors where friends and families celebrated outside with their new college graduates.

Graduates recognized for achievements

By Linda Wright

Graduates from the school of applied arts and the school of health sciences and community services, along with their family and friends, gathered at Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre June 24 for the last time as students of Conestoga College.

"With the support of your families, you have succeeded," said Harold Redekopp, vice-president of CBC, to an audience of around 800 at the 31st convocation.

What the graduates have achieved is a gift just like their natural talents, he said.

He recognized the hard work the graduates have had to do in order to get to where they are today and he said he appreciated the desire they had for meaning and fulfilment. "Because one can expect many career changes in one's life, it is important to continue to grow for the rest of your lives."

Redekopp reminisced about previous graduations in which he was in attendance and said he didn't remember a thing about what the speaker said, noting that he might not be memorable, and he would make the speech brief.

"There is nothing more satisfying than working for the public service and providing distinctive TV to Canadians." Although one-third of public funding has been cut from the CBC, they are finding new ways to raise money. He added that the CBC only costs each Canadian seven cents a day, and continues to deliver excellent service.

Canadian public television has had the 10 top shows on this year and more shows that are commercial free.

The CBC always makes sure job postings are made available to Conestoga students. Redekopp hopes some of the graduates will be able to work

for the CBC or become involved in some way. He is proud to work for an organization whose values he shares. "To each graduate I extend my sincere congratulations for personal success."

Some graduates were quick to reap rewards, winning Alumni of Distinction awards.

Winners were: Louise DeCorso, an early childhood education graduate; Bernard Melloul, a construction engineering technology graduate; and James Robinson, a graphic design graduate.

These awards recognize graduates for their personal and professional achievements, as demonstrated through career success and commitment to others through community and volunteer work.

Robinson gave the graduates one piece of advice. "Make the most of what you learned in your college days and hold your heads high."



Guest speaker Harold Redekopp of the CBC addresses the assembly at convocation ceremonies June 23 at the recreation centre.

(Photo by John Oberholtzer)

Learning: key element to success

By Angela Clayfield

With the tune of the Graduation March buzzing somewhere in their subconscious, the first round of the class of '99 made their way to their seats and awaited the calling of their name to receive their diploma and liripipe at the 31st Convocation June 22.

In addition to these must-have items they also received advice.

Linda Hasenfratz, president of Linamar Corporation, a manufacturing company based in Guelph, praised the students for choosing a technical college.

"If there is one challenge I hear expressed again and again by business leaders today, is the lack of skilled people in the workplace," said Hasenfratz. "When you view that in combination with the amount of unemployment in the younger generation of the workforce, it's surprising that colleges are not overflowing with people who recognize a career in which demand far exceeds the supply. As such I commend you all on your wise choice."

Hasenfratz told the grads the average age of a skilled machinist is 55, which indicates the need to attract more people into skilled trades.

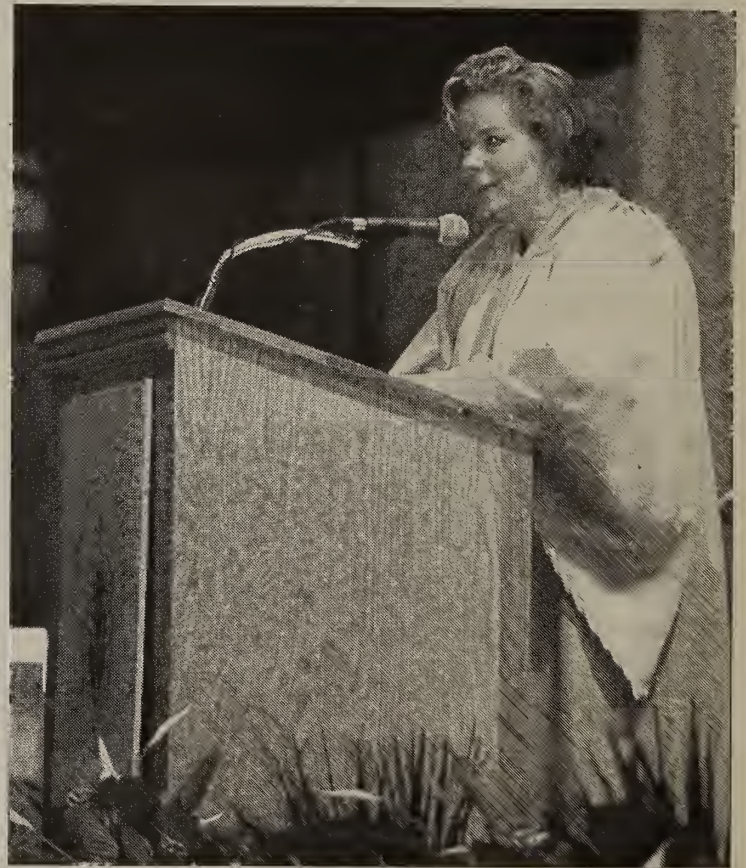
"What I don't understand is why the skills are not more attractive?" she asked stating that more than half of the management team (CEO, general managers, operations managers) at Linamar graduated from a technical school like Conestoga College.

"Four of the top 10 (highest) paid individuals in Canada today graduated from technical schools like Conestoga College. Clearly there is significant career opportunities and earning potential for people of that background who are efficient and highly motivated."

Hasenfratz told the students they were graduating in the nick of time to support Linamar's growth.

"I considered slipping an application form into your diplomas, but I couldn't convince the college of it."

Hasenfratz let the class of '99 in on all the secrets to success:



Linda Hasenfratz, president of Linamar Corp., unveils the secrets of success to members of the class of '99 at the 31st Convocation June 22.

(Photo by Angela Clayfield)

never stop learning, be an opportunist, don't be afraid of change and don't be afraid of challenge.

"Never stop learning. Never stop asking questions," Hasenfratz said. "Don't be afraid of asking stupid questions. You've probably heard the saying, the only stupid question is the one that didn't get asked and it's very true. I ask stupid questions all the time and I have learned so much in the process."

Hasenfratz has held almost every position at Linamar, except maintenance, at one time or another. As such, she told the students to take advantage of training opportunities offered by their future employers.

"Take advantage of an opportunity to learn a different skill," she said. "The more areas of a company you have an opportunity to work in, the more well-rounded your education will be

and the better suited you will be for promotion."

She said her various experiences gave her more of an insight into what her co-workers have to deal with on a regular basis and that it has made her a better team player.

"Finally the most important thing, is don't be afraid of challenge. Push yourself to the absolute limit of your ability and then some. Putting yourself in a situation where you're in just a little over your head forces you to stretch and grow. It's amazing how quickly and effectively you learn in that kind of situation."

All these secrets, she said can be summed up to one common theme: learn.

"Learn. Train and learn. Change and learn...be challenge and learn. There's definitely a common theme here. Learning, growing. It's just one secret after all."

Medieval Times offers more than just food

OFF CAMPUS

By Michelle Lehmann

I went out for dinner and ended up travelling back in time.

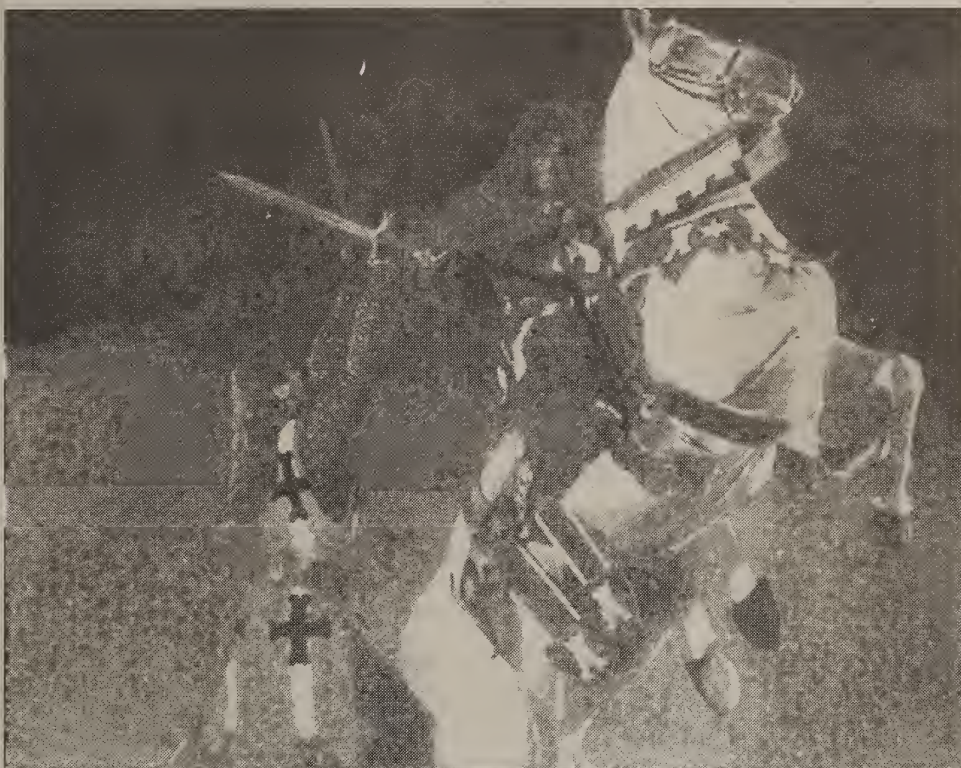
I travelled to an age when kings ruled the land, when brave knights came from near and far to defend the honour of the kingdom and when people ate chicken with their fingers and drank soup from bowls. On June 19, I attended Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament and it was an experience to remember.

The evening began with a warm greeting from the king and his queen. Before the festivities, the king offered an elaborate toast and ordered the serving wenches to parade through the arena with the food to be served.

As honoured guests of the king, the audience witnessed an entertaining and exciting show where riding masters exhibited their skills upon beautiful, graceful Andalusian stallions. These grand horses from Spain performed tricks and displayed their ability and intelligence.

During the demonstration, an announcer educated the audience about the training regiment that all horses and riders were forced to complete in the 11th century. Such trainers are respected around the world.

A set menu kept with the medieval theme. Each course



Knights battle on the floor while the paying customers enjoy their meal at a safe distance at Medieval Times in Toronto.

was served on simple metal dishes, drinks were brought to the table in chalices and there was no such things as utensils. Dinner was messy and awkward, but helped capture the essence of centuries past.

For appetizers, we were served garlic bread and dragon (vegetable) soup, but had no spoons. The main course, consisting of a herb-garlic baked potato, spare-ribs and a roasted chicken leg, was eaten with only your fingers. And the dessert was a pastry of the castle.

Throughout the dinner, six knights battled in various games of skill. The knights demonstrated their agility, strength and chivalry. Each section of the arena was coloured-coded to match one of the warrior knights. During the jousting and duels, you were expected to support your knight with wild cheers and thunderous applause.

The energetic drama engulfed the audience as young and old alike played along with the charade. The audience was animated, dynamic and very, very loud.

I must warn you that it takes time to travel into the past. Because seating for the show operates on a first-come-first-serve basis, you want to be there early to ensure a good seat.

The wait was prolonged and dull since doors opened at 6 p.m. but the show didn't begin until 7:30 p.m. I was at the dinner theatre before the doors opened, but it was worthwhile for I did have a ring-side seat.

Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament is held year-round inside Exhibition Place in Toronto. Tickets are \$47.10 per person and can be reserved by calling 1-800-563-1190.

Student enterprise gives new meaning to BYOB

By Adam Wilson

OFF CAMPUS

Student Enterprises, a Brantford area company, has given new meaning to the frequently used acronym, BYOB.

However, their BYOB means Be Your Own Boss.

Student Enterprises provides students from college and university an opportunity to own and operate their own painting company.

ness and keep track of all their earnings.

Nyyssonen said the company has been around for a number of years and has begun to change over the last few years.

"Student Enterprises used to be a painting company, but they decided to target students and start up franchises, and that is how we

Student Enterprises provides students from college and university an opportunity to own and operate their own painting company.

Marcy Nyyssonen, franchise co-ordinator for Student Enterprises, said that this is challenging work for students.

"The students are responsible for sales, promotion and customer service," she said. "There is lots of responsibility for a student, but it's a fabulous learning experience."

New franchises are set up and operated completely by students each year.

Students are trained in the early spring on painting, painting problems and difficulties, production, customer service, marketing and how to make estimates for their jobs.

"Each student learns how to do the painting and run the business in the spring."

Nyyssonen said the experience is a lot of work for students, but it is especially good for business students.

Each spring there is a bank account set up for each franchise and the students learn how to manage the money for the busi-

ended up where we are now," said Nyyssonen.

There are currently 15 Student Enterprise franchises across Ontario. Some of them are located in London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Brantford, Hamilton, Burlington, Niagara Falls, Mississauga and Toronto.

"New franchises are set up each year by students," said Nyyssonen.

There are three main positions held within each franchise: the managers, the painters and the marketers.

Nyyssonen said the managers pay depends on how much money they make and what their production is like.

"There are goals set for each franchise, and bonuses are awarded to managers who exceed the expectations."

The businesses themselves operate from May to August.

If you want to get in touch with Student Enterprises, you can visit their Web site on the Internet at www.studententerprise.com.

Sprucing up the campus

The day after

Dan Randall, in physical resources, cleans up after convocation on June 24 at the Doon campus of Conestoga College.

(Photo by Linda Wright)



A green thumb

Shaun Kempel, a construction engineering student, paints boards that will later be used for mounting around the college.

(Photo by Linda Wright)

Seventh annual jazz festival coming to Waterloo in July

By Brian Gall

A free, all-ages festival featuring a wide range of jazz, swing and blues musicians is on its way to Waterloo July 16 and 17.

The seventh annual Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival will use three stages to showcase the 13 bands scheduled to play the event.

Cathy Menard, a well-known local musician, is officially kicking off the festivities at a gala to be held at the Waterloo Stage Theatre.

In its first year, the semi-formal event will spotlight Menard on the Thursday prior to the festival. Tickets to the gala are available at the Waterloo Business Improvement Area (BIA) office, located at 100 Regina St. S. Those interested can call (519) 885-1921.

All establishments in Uptown Waterloo are sponsors of the festival and members of the BIA, (a board of management for core businesses) who have run the festival since it began.

City Centre, on Regina Street, will be the event's main platform. The Regina Street stage will operate out of City Centre's parking lot, beside city hall, (at 100 Regina St. S.) and the



Performers may continue to play in local pubs after their time slot.

music will start Friday at 6 p.m.

Bands playing Saturday will begin at noon on the Regina Street stage, 12:30 p.m. on the Parkade stage, (across from Waterloo Town Square on King Street) and 1 p.m. at the Brewmeister Green stage (corner of King and William Streets).

Brick Brewing Co. will be present to supply audiences with beverages at a beer tent at the Green stage.

And performers may continue to play in local pubs after their time slot.

"So if people come down and see a band they really like, they'll be announcing where they will be playing later on that night," said Katie Jackson, an administrative assistant at the BIA.

A sidewalk sale will also be held on King Street during the weekend, along with children's attractions like face painting and clowns.

Last year, about 7,000 people attended the festival, which has been updated quite a bit since its conception.

An increase in funding means the number of stages has gone up from one to three, Jackson said. And with about a quarter more musicians than last year, tunes will be going at all times.

People come to the festival after hearing about it from a friend or family member, or return because they had a good time in previous years.

"People who came last year really enjoyed it, so it seems like they come back every year."

And the award goes to . . .



Mauren Nummelin, of the school of business, receives the 1999 Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teacher Award at the June 22 convocation ceremony.

(Photo by Brian Smiley)

Simon Birch more like an on-screen disaster than heart-warming story

MOVIE

By Charles Kuepfer

Simon Birch is a little guy with a big heart. He's the type of kid you want to root for because he is, after all, smaller than all the kids his age, suffering from a rare form of dwarfism. It's a movie you want to like, just because it is such a neat story centred around a neat kid. But, apart from the cute story about a little kid wondering what God's purpose is for him on earth, the movie is a big disappointment.

The movie stars Hollywood newcomer Michael Smith as Simon Birch, Joseph Mazzello (the kid from Jurassic Park) as Joe Wentworth, Oliver Platt as Ben Goodrich, Ashley Judd as Rebecca Wentworth and Jim Carrey, who plays Joe as an adult and is the film's narrator.

The movie begins in the present with Joe Wentworth visiting the graves of his mother and his childhood best friend, Simon Birch.

We then are taken back to 1964, the day that little Simon Birch was born. He was never expected to last the night. Or the next day. Or the next week. Or the next month. But he lives, much to the chagrin of his parents.

Fast forward about 10 years and Simon and Joe are best friends, sneaking around town or going down to the pond for a swim. Both are considered outcasts, since Simon's parents want nothing to do with him and since Joe is, to put it in Simon's terms, a bastard.

Simon is convinced that God has a mission for him in life, while Joe wants to find out who his father is. The boys get into trouble going about their business. Simon has

several run-ins with the pastor and causes his Sunday school teacher to take numerous cigarette breaks.

Joe, meanwhile, enlists Simon's help to find out who his father is.

Near the end of the film, Joe does find out who his father is and Simon finds out his mission in life. For Simon, his mission is a tragic one.

There are a number of bizarre events in the film that leave the viewer confused, mystified and somewhat appalled. It is shocking

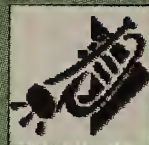
to watch Simon slug a foul ball that strikes, and kills, Joe's mother. Especially since he never hit a pitch in his life during a little league game, let alone swing the bat (his coach never let him swing, so he'd get walked). Then there is the scene where Simon plays baby Jesus in a Sunday school play, and grabs the breasts of the girl playing Mary. Scenes like these, along with Simon's use of profanity, seem out of character.

The film makes no apologies for tugging at your emotions throughout the film, but at times the emotional overtones appear sappy and forced. Then there are the still shots of National Geographic-like scenery. It is spectacular, with the majority of the filming done in Nova Scotia, but after awhile static shots of trees, rocks and serene lakes become a bit of a bore.

All the elements for a good movie are there in Simon Birch. The only problem is that they are thrown haphazardly together, creating more of an on-screen disaster than a heartwarming story about life through the eyes of Simon Birch.



The Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival



Friday July 16, 1999

regina street stage

6 p.m. -- 7:30 Martin Mathews band

8 p.m. -- 10:30 Time warp - tribute to duke ellington

Saturday July 17

REGINA STREET STAGE

12 P.M. -- 1:30 JUMP JOINT

2 P.M. -- 3:30 DEL DAKO QUARTET

4 P.M. -- 5:30 ED BICKERT QUARTET

6 P.M. -- 7:30 CATHY MENARD QUINTET

8 P.M. -- 9:30 ROB MCCONNELL TENTET

PARKADE STAGE

12:30 P.M. -- 2 KEITH MURCH QUARTET

2:30 P.M. -- 4 PETER SMITH QUINTET

4:30 P.M. -- 6 RON SCHIRM/FRITZ BOEGLI QUARTET

BREWMEISTER GREEN STAGE

1 P.M. -- 2:30 DOREEN SMITH TRIO

3 P.M. -- 4:30 RAY PODHORNIAK QUINTET

5 P.M. -- 6:30 SENSATION JAZZ BAND